



Fresh Air

Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group

Fall 2004 Volume 36, Issue 3

Website: <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>

Special Fundraiser for Sierra

BENEFIT CONCERT with Catskill Mountain songwriter, James Krueger on Saturday, November 13.

If you attended our New Member Party this March, and went over later to the Elting Library performance by James Krueger, you already know what a great performer he is; there were raves about the readings (“my favorite nature writers!”) and songs. Now Mr. Krueger is putting together a new concert as a fundraiser for us! \$12 will get you the chance to hear many beautiful songs (some are available on his CD). He will also talk about the fascinating life story of our founder, John Muir, and a bit about the Catskill Park, which is celebrating its centennial. He has been called the “true voice of the Catskills” and his songs, which range from traditional folk to his own contemporary compositions, show a “deep, healthy connection to nature”. Find out more about him on his website: www.jameskrueger.com.

The evening will start at 7:30 pm. with a bit of socializing at the Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Kingston,



James Krueger

30 Pine Grove Avenue (phone 331-6796), and then the concert will start at 8 p.m. on **Saturday, November 13.** (*This is the only newsletter you will receive before then so please mark that date!*)

If some of you can help out with donating refreshments, we can have some during intermission.

TAG SALE TIME!!

Here it is - our big annual fundraising event! **Reserve that date!** Sale will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on **Saturday, September 18** (raindate Sunday, September 19) at the parking lot of **MULLIGAN'S** at 215 New Hackensack Road in Poughkeepsie, as per earlier years. It is 2 miles south-east of Vassar College on Route 376.

WE NEED TREASURES TO SELL! Merchandise for sale should be dropped off at Mulligan's on the morning of the sale after 7:30 a.m. (say between 7:30-9:00 a.m., though if you can only come later, don't let that stop you!) If possible, PLEASE pre-price, and/or please stay and help us sort the merchandise. It would help if items are presorted into the general categories of kitchen, household, brick-a-brack, children's or adult's clothing, etc. We need pricers and “enforcers”. Computer and electronic equipment in excellent working order are also welcome, as are any books except old textbooks. JEWELRY and PLANTS and BAKED GOODS/drinks would be especially welcome. (Please note that shoes, other than sporting, do not sell, and clothing should be in near-perfect condition. Mattresses

and items on consignment cannot be accepted. (Continued on page 4)

**TAG SALE
DATE:
SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER
18**

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Executive Summary by Bibi Sandstrom

PROGRAM CORNER:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11:

Tour an Organic Farm at 4:30 p.m. and/or at 6:00 p.m. participate in Sierra's Sustainable Consumption's "True Cost of Food" potluck! Please bring a dish to share that if at all possible contains local, organic, and plant-based food. Please bring your own utensils and plates. No pets please.

4:30 p.m.: Come to Huguenot Street Farm at 205 Huguenot in New Paltz and enjoy a free tour by farmer Ron Khosla, who started a nation-wide alternative to the USDA organic program, "Certified Naturally Grown", which is both stricter, cheaper, and less bureaucratic (and endorsed by Sierra!). Enjoy the beautiful views of the Shawangunk Mountains! The Wallkill Valley Rail Trail and a small Huguenot Path are both nearby for your walking pleasure, too.

6:00 p.m.: Stay or come for the vegetarian potluck in the barn, with food that was produced locally, followed by a bonfire and Fire Juggling! (A hat will be passed for Sierra). Call 845-255-5528 or email bibis@juno.com for details.

MID-HUDSON GROUP IS GOING LOCAL! After learning about the "True Cost of Food" campaign on our trip to Ron Khosla's Huguenot Street organic or "Certified Naturally Grown" farm, members of Mid-Hudson Group will participate in the Earth Charter Sustainable Community Summit taking place at SUNY-New Paltz campus and Hasbrouck Park in the Village of New Paltz. There are several days of events, culminating in an all-day festival in the park on **October 9**. To support the Earth Charter and Local Sustainability themes, we need to think globally and act locally. Mid-Hudson Group will use posters, flyers, a video, and plenty of enthusiasm to encourage people to focus on sustainable consumption, especially locally grown food. Please support this endeavor by becoming a volunteer at the park or by attending the event. For more information, call Mary Anne McCormack at 229-6094 or check our website, <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>.

OCTOBER 20TH SPEAKER SOCIAL: NIGHT OF SONGS AND SATIRE!

LANCE SMITH is a longtime environmental activist, having participated in the first Earth Day and numerous other environmental events since as an organizer, speaker, and singer. Weaving together stories, commentaries, and songs, many of them original satirical compositions, he

has informed and entertained audiences for the past 40 years. Accompanying himself on guitar, banjo, and harmonica, his song list will include works by Woody Guthrie, Tom Lehrer, John Prine, and a "slightly modified" version of the Beatles' "Rain". He also promises several originals, especially ones that will teach us about the current administration's environmental policies.... (Lance helped edit a flyer about the Bush record for this last Earth Day). Program will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 110 Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

NOVEMBER 17TH SOCIAL - STARRING YOUR SLIDES!!

Have you taken photos of our lovely Hudson Valley? Please bring them to the JCC on Wednesday, November 17, along with any tales of your favorite hikes. Past and prospective hikers, hike leaders, and outings chair are especially wanted to come share where they like to walk around "here". Plus, consider this an early Holiday Party, since we won't have one in December!

CAN YOU HELP?

Please let the chair know (bibis@juno.com) if you....

...can help sell calendars at the BEACON SLOOP PUMPKIN FESTIVAL Sunday, **October 10th**

...would like to buy a 2005 Sierra calendar yourself

...are interested in running for the **board** for a three-year term (deadline 11/1)

...can help wrap books at Barnes & Noble on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie on **Saturday, December 18** for a shift sometime between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

...can be the new OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

We need a volunteer four times a year to contact local Sierrans who have expressed interest in hiking, ask them to lead (preferably local) hikes, and write up a list of their hikes for the newsletter. No need to be a hiker yourself - just email the list to the editor.

*****ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 2***:** Check our website for political news. And as for voting... folks, this year it's a no-brainer (hey, just like our... must clamp mouth...)

Please look for our **Waldenbooks coupon** on our website: <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>

CONSERVATION CORNER by Roberta Clements

AS we are heading into fall there has been a thankful respite in new proposals for large developments in the area, however we are all aware that although there has been relatively little public activity by developers, inner workings continue to pour money and time into making their projects manifest in our homeland.

The Awosting Reserve development is at a critical juncture where at the time of writing, efforts to rezone the AAR-200 district in Gardiner are under debate. The AR-200 zone was supposed to be rezoned from a now obsolete Master Plan, but the rezoning had never occurred. At the time of writing, the new master plan continues its process. Hopefully, the Town of Gardiner will uphold its own master plan. As for the sewage treatment plant, the Awosting Reserve LLC continues to assert that it is an allowable use on the cliffs of the Shawangunks. Clearly, the power of municipal home rule of the local township should prevail, but this will have to be resolved in court due to the pending legal action by the developers. As you know, Awosting Reserve represents just one of many proposals abutting the Shawangunk Ridge (casinos, the mushroom processing plant, and condominiums to the south). With this in mind, over 30 organizations united at the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition to preserve and protect this fragile and singularly unique geological and ecological terrain so that we can **ALL** enjoy it for perpetuity. The Mid-Hudson Group is a proud participant in this coalition continuing to pursue our mission to preserve and protect the outdoors so we can continue to enjoy it.

The banks of the Hudson have a new hotspot nightclub on the Rondout in Kingston but the proposed Landing Development of thousands of condo units by AVR remains in question. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement provided by AVR was rejected by the City of Kingston and it may take several months for AVR to present a full environmental assessment of the effects of their proposed construction. Once accepted by the city, the DEIS will be presented for public comment and members will need to respond at the public hearings and in writing. Right next door, several hundred units are proposed on the former brickyard property. These developers want to push these proposals through so they can "move" these units before the "real estate bubble" bursts. If they do, Kingston will be left with overpriced housing units that could remain empty (did I hear someone say "Tech City?") Yes, there is a housing shortage, but not for wealthy out-of-towners. The shortage in housing is in affordable housing for the working people of the Hudson Valley who are not necessarily able to buy, or looking for, \$250,000 condos on the river. These projects

could hold some promise if **DRAMATICALLY** downsized and if traffic, pollution, water, sewer, and economic burdens on the community are considered. The reason the Hudson Valley is so attractive to those in the south is because they are trying to escape the traffic, pollution, strip malls, and poor quality of life that was created by developments such as this. Let's make sure it is not recreated here or soon we will all be applying for Canadian citizenship!

We won't be able to "go west" if Dean Gitter's "Crossroads at Belleayre" occurs because we would be struck in traffic on Route 28. We need to make sure our state legislators know how the majority of residents feel about clearcutting for golf courses and casinos. The construction jobs provided by creating these facilities would most likely go to large contractors outside of the area and the residents who live here will be selling them coffee and gas, so don't be fooled by the promise of economics. Vacationers will not be leaving their "compounds" to shop locally. The Catskill mountains are a place of everlasting beauty and of purity for our water and air. What God has created let no man put asunder.

Those of you who attended our Speaker Social with Don Young regarding National Parks were happy to enjoy some of the most stunning scenery. While we viewed Don's incredible slide show he discussed the Redrock Wilderness Act which is looking to protect some of the most magnificent terrain on earth. And we are lucky enough to have it in the United States of America. This federal Act, sponsored by our own Maurice Hinchey, would protect 9 million acres of land in Utah. This is already federal public land but it is threatened by - guess what? - drilling for oil and gas, mining, and excessive use by off road vehicles. The Sierra Club and 234 other conservation groups support the Act. Please express your support as well. You can write to Hinchey at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515

The proposed mining operation in Eddyville was defeated by rezoning the 43 acre area in question. After a highly vocal community opposition, the Town of Ulster appropriately rezoned this as residential property. Predictably, the mining company intends to sue. Wouldn't the money be better spent on creating a useful project? That is like driving an extra 100 miles to buy gas that's two cents cheaper.

Lastly, if I need to say anything about the November elections in this publication, you are too far gone to reach! Peace to all...

Roberta Clements 532-6400

TAG SALE TIME!!

(Continued from page 1)

Very large items such as furniture and lawn equipment cannot be accepted because we have no way to get rid of them if they do not sell.) Krispy Kreme donuts and coffee will be available for sale early on too, if someone could bring a card table or two...

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO WORK ON SALE DAY! If you can help out, please reserve the date and call Carol Jarvis at 473-5620. You can choose to work setup (7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.), the morning sales rush (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), or afternoon (1 p.m. until closing) or cleanup or any combination you can. **YOUR HELP** is greatly appreciated. We also need volunteers with trucks or vans to help shuttle merchandise from drop-off points to tag sale. If you can't drop-off on the morning of the Tag Sale, please contact one of the following drop-off volunteers: Marjorie Russell (Hudson), 518-828-9146, Dave Page (Milton), 795-5665, Fred Schaeffer (Pleasant Valley/Poughkeepsie, but help needed Sat AM w/transporting your stuff), 454-1190(w), and Ronnie Brown (small items only, Newburgh), 565-6329. Pick-up volunteer: Gerald Davison, 339-4509.

HELP US WITH ADVERTISING THE SALE! Great

ideas for spreading the word? This sale is a major source of funding for your newsletter!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, call Carol Jarvis at 473-5620. In case of questionable weather on Tag Sale Day itself, please call Fred's answering machine at 454-1190. During the day, if you have questions, you can call Janet at 417-8898.

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 MINNEWASKA LOOP C HIKE

Great views of the lake and surrounding terrain. Always a beautiful spot made special in the Autumn. Stop to buy apples on the way back. Please let the leader know in advance if interested in learning more about hike leading. Meet in New Paltz parking lot across from Rock and Snow at 9:30 a.m. If interested in a pre-hike breakfast meet the leader at 8:30 a.m. but let leader know. Bring water and snack/lunch. Rain cancels.

Leader: Nancy Keenan-Rich 845-452-1727,
e-mail nkrich@hvc.rr.com

Please look for our **Waldenbooks coupon** on our website:
<http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>

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Mark your calendars! TAG SALE DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Please volunteer your time! We need merchandise to sell!